

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
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R 180840Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 228
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMCONSUL MEDAN
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMCONSUL SURABAYA
CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, ID
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT SUHARTO VISITS EAST TIMOR

1. PRESIDENT SUHARTO, ACCOMPANIED BY EIGHT MEMBERS OF HIS CABINET AND THE AMBASSADORS OF THE ASEAN COUNTRIES, MADE HIS FIRST VISIT TO EAST TIMOR JULY 16-17. ADDRESSING THE EAST TIMOR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY IN DILI ON THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE FORMER PORTUGUESE COLONY'S INTEGRATION WITH INDONESIA, HE STATED THAT THE GOI TAKES FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PROGRESS OF THE REGION, BECAUSE INTEGRATION WAS PRIMARILY INTENDED TO IMPLEMENT DEVELOPMENT IN A CLIMATE OF INDEPENDENCE.

2. THE PRESIDENT STRESSED THE NEED FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, NOTED THAT THE GOI HAS SPENT TENS OF BILLIONS OF RUPIAH
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ON EAST TIMOR SINCE ITS INTEGRATION INTO INDONESIA IN 1976, AND URGED THE TIMORESE TO WORK HARD TO CATCH UP WITH THE OTHER PROVINCES OF INDONESIA. SUHARTO SAID HE WAS PLEASED TO LEARN THAT THE EAST TIMORESE PEOPLE HAD ASSISTED THE ARMED FORCES IN RESTORING SECURITY IN THE REGION, AS THIS ENABLED THE REGION TO BEGIN ITS OWN DEVELOPMENT. HE COMMENTED THAT THIS DEVELOPMENT WOULD

BE FACILITATED BY IMPROVED SEA AND AIR COMMUNICATIONS
WITH THE REST OF INDONESIA.

3. IN AN INFORMAL SPEECH AT MALIANA, WHERE WORK IS TO
BEGIN SOON ON AN IRRIGATION DAM COMPLEX THAT WILL ULTI-
MATELY PROVIDE WATER FOR 17,000 HECTARES OF RICE FIELDS,
SUHARTO DECLARED THAT NO POWER WHATEVER COULD OBSTRUCT
OR CANCEL THE FIRM DECISION OF THE EAST TIMORESE PEOPLE
TWO YEARS AGO TO REUNITE WITH THEIR INDONESIAN BROTHERS.

4. ON JULY 16 THE PRESIDENT FORMALLY INAUGURATED A NEW
TELEVISION RELAY STATION IN DILI, LINKING THE PROVINCE
BY SATELLITE WITH THE INDONESIAN TELEVISION SYSTEM.

5. THE VISIT RECEIVED EXTENSIVE COVERAGE IN LOCAL PAPERS
AND ON TELEVISION. LARGE AND ENTHUSIASTIC CROWDS WERE
REPORTED AT ALL STOPS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ITINERARY, AND
THERE WAS NO INDICATION OF ANY DISTURBANCES BY FRETELIN
REMNANTS DURING THE VISIT. ACCORDING TO MALAYSIAN AND
SINGAPOREAN DIPLOMATS, PRESIDENT SUHARTO SEEMED INSPIRED
BY THE WARM WELCOME OF THE CROWDS AND SPOKE WITH UNUSUAL (FOR
HIM) ENTHUSIASM.
GARDNER

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